

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend page 16, lines 15-21 as follows:

The data linking blocks 122 are meaningless as user data and are removed at the time of data reading. According ~~[[ti]]~~ to the linking rule for the CD-R having the current format, the seven data linking blocks are appended to each packet 120 as in the above, and so in case the one packet 120 includes 32 data blocks as in the above, an area as large as about 18% (= 7/39) cannot be used for recording of user data. When the number of the data linking blocks 122 is further increased, the proportion of the unusable area for recording the user data will further be larger. Therefore, the number of the data linking blocks 122 should desirably be set as small as possible.

Please amend page 20, lines 1-13 as follows:

According to the linking rule applied in the CD-R having the current format, two run-out blocks are to be written at the tail of a preceding data, data write has to be stopped at the above-mentioned linking position in a linking block after the data, the data write has to be restarted at the above linking position in the linking block, and subsequent user data have to be written after four run-in blocks are written. Note that according to the linking rule, it is allowed that there is a shift of +36/ 10 EFM blocks between the leading edge of the block sync signal "Block Sync" for restarting the data write (before data coding using a minimum delay encoder) and that of the subcode sync signal "S0, S1" included in the data block. However, the linking rule will be described on the assumption that there is no such shift between the leading edge of the block

sync signal "Block Sync" and that of the subcode sync signal "S0, S1". The "minimum delay encoder" means an encoder ~~having~~ does not have any circuit delay other than the intentional delay by the interleaving.

Please amend page 24, lines 14-20 as follows:

In the example shown in FIG. 9, to prevent any missing ~~[[in]]~~ user data whose writing has not yet been stopped, only the second run-out block should be provided, and the first run-out block is provided to make it possible to detect when the optical disc drive has reached the data linking blocks. Therefore, if it is possible to detect, without reading the first run-out block, when the optical disc drive has reached the data linking block, the first run-out block will be unnecessary and thus the number of data linking blocks can be reduced.